There is a growing range of career pathways ... in recreation, physical activity, sport and related health fields

From the Principal

EXCITING NEW CURRICULUM OFFERINGS IN 2016

We are introducing three exciting new courses at IGS next year.
Shauna Colnan writes ...

In 2016, IGS will welcome three new courses – Drama for Year 7, and Commerce and Physical Activity and Sports Studies (commonly known as PASS) as electives for Years 9 and 10.

Year 7 Drama

We are one of the state’s top performing schools in HSC Drama. But unless students choose Drama in Years 9 or 10, or for the HSC in Year 11 and 12, they may just miss out on the experiences that this subject brings.

Drama holds the potential to break through the fear of public speaking. It can build poise, self-confidence and clear thinking. As a cornerstone of the arts, it is a source of creative expression unlike any other. It pushes students out of their comfort zones and provides powerful learning experiences shared with peers.

I see Drama as a learning entitlement for all students and so to enhance the already formidable creative and collaborative capabilities of our students, Year 7 will have a taster course in Drama for one period a week next year.

Heads of Drama and English, Rita Morabito and Derek Patalny, are collaborating to design a hands-on, fun and challenging drama program. Year 7 will be up on their feet expressing aspects of their broadening world and their relationships within it.

The focus will be on imaginative expression for a range of audiences, purposes and contexts. The students will be encouraged to speak with clarity and conviction, to embody ideas and to perform a range of roles. Appreciating cultural expression through drama scripts and self-devised works will make this an exciting new offering that extends our students as they move into high school.

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Furthermore, with this strategic addition to our curriculum we become one of the few schools in NSW offering Drama in the first two years of high school.

**Years 9–10 Commerce elective**

At the beginning of Year 9, students begin to craft their own pattern of study through a range of elective choices.

At the recent parent conversation, we talked about creating more opportunities for our students to build their financial literacy skills and to learn about entrepreneurship, innovation, business and the law. Many of you also want to see more opportunities given to our students to engage with local communities across our diverse city. This was a theme that emerged in last year’s parent expectation survey. Our recently articulated purpose to equip all young Australians.

Commerce is a course that facilitates real world experiences. It builds an understanding of commercial and legal processes and competencies for personal financial management. Central to the course is the development of knowledge about the relationships between consumers, businesses and governments in the overall economy.

Commerce can be an enjoyable and accessible gateway into the more complex exploration of globalisation and the economy that awaits many of our students who take on the challenges of Economics for the HSC, a rigorous course in which IGS students continue to excel.

Commerce students plan, organise and run a small business, which I know our students will enjoy, given how often they generate creative new ideas to reach out and help others. The course promotes a commitment to ethical behaviour and social responsibility as students build their awareness that they have agency and can contribute to a more just and equitable society.

With Google down the road, the Powerhouse Museum, UTS, Notre Dame and the University of Sydney in walking distance, not-for profits all around us, the courts and parliament house a bus trip away, our amazing parent body on which to draw and the expertise of our teachers, Commerce is set to be a vibrant new curriculum offering that will take our students into the field to gain first hand experiences of business and the law.

**IGS features in national languages research**

The exemplary work of our languages department was recognised across Australia yesterday with the launch by the AIS and the University of Canberra of important research conducted by Dr Ruth Fielding, Assistant Professor of TESOL and Foreign Language Teaching at UC.

IGS is Case Study 1, of four case studies in the booklet: Exploring Effective and Sustainable Language Programs in NSW Independent Schools: A Snapshot of Language Learning in 2014.

This work will inform ACARA as it continues to explore how language learning can, and should, feature in the education of all young Australians.

IGS emerges in the study as the foremost school in the teaching of languages in NSW independent schools.

Principal Shauna Colnan congratulated our IGS staff “for all they do and have done over the years to sustain this rich, dynamic and unique program”.

“What a tribute to our staff and to Reg St Leon’s enduring vision of bilingual education as a learning entitlement of all children,” Ms Colnan said.

Copy/pasting the following URL address will take you straight to the report.

https://www.aisnsw.edu.au/Services/PL/LanguagesSecondary/Language%20library/Language%20Programs%20NSW%20Booklet%20online.pdf#search=a%20snapshot%20of%20language%20learning%20in%202014

**Years 9–10 PASS elective**

PDHPE teachers believe passionately that Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS) will be a worthy new addition to the Stage 5 elective program.

The PASS syllabus aims to enhance students’ capacity to participate in physical activity and sport, leading to improved quality of life for themselves and others. It promotes the concept of learning through movement. The course provides new experiences and challenges beyond those offered through the mandatory PDHPE Years 7–10 course and is an additional pathway towards PDHPE for the HSC, which is another course in which our students excel.

There is a growing range of career pathways and opportunities for voluntary and paid work across Australia in recreation, physical activity, sport and related health fields.

PASS provides students with a broad understanding of the multifaceted nature of these fields. It also builds valuable skills in organisation, event management, enterprise, leadership, coaching and communication. Students with these skills will be positioned to make a strong contribution to their community now and into the future.

Our staff will take advantage of the amazing sporting facilities on our doorstep to bring memorable experiences for the first crop of PASS students at IGS.

I look forward to seeing Drama, Commerce and PASS enhance our rich curriculum offerings as we continue to ensure that teaching and learning at IGS is fresh, relevant, innovative and challenging.

Shauna Colnan
Principal